

thirteen, a full two years before the standard admission age. Bill Hall, director of the program, recognized Chris's enthusiasm and ability and thus waived the minimum age requirement for the young protege. Chris did not disappoint, excelling in all aspect of the training, from pulling lines to dressing hydrants, and perhaps most importantly, first aid. Not surprisingly, Chris is considered one of the most adept alumni of the program, and wishes to continue his training after high school by pursuing a career in firefighting. Given his previous accomplishments, Chris Cahoon will have shining career in public service ahead of him.

Not only does Chris's heroic action give us reason to recognize a commendable young man, it also provides proof that America's youth are still learning important values such as self-improvement, service to others, and selflessness. Chris had a childhood dream—a noble dream—and he was encouraged to pursue this path by the community around him, most notably by his parents, Debbie and Gene Cahoon. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Chris and hold him as an example of what our children may accomplish if they are provided with nurturing surroundings. Furthermore, I salute him personally for his heroism and kindness.

#### HONORING DWAIN HAMMONS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

##### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 1, 1999*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dwain Hammons who retires this week from Hammons Products Company in Stockton, Missouri, as the chief executive officer. Hammons Products Company known at one time as "Missouri Dandy," has for the past 53 years bought, shelled, and sold Eastern Black Walnuts. In just a little over half a century, Hammons Products Company has become the world's foremost supplier of the Eastern Black Walnut. This becomes even more significant when you realize they created a market that at the time was virtually non-existent in the sale of Eastern Black Walnuts.

Hammons Products Company began as a dream of Dwain's father, Ralph, in 1946, when he was a local grocery store owner in Stockton. Ralph's dream eventually became a reality that Dwain has never lost sight of as he has continued building their business year after year. Dwain has led his family and the business through the changing of the times in the past 50 years. Although Dwain deserves much of the credit for the success of the business, he rarely accepts it. Instead he gives the credit to his father, Ralph, who urged him to always be willing to advance and modernize the company. He also credits the employees, who he will tell you have been a steadfast example of the company's mission statement, "To lead and grow the Black Walnut nut industry, and to excel in providing quality nut products and superior service with strong business integrity enhancing the economic well being and quality of life for owners, employees, customers, suppliers, and our communities." An example he is quick to give is how they helped to invent the companies first walnut shucking machine.

For everyone who knows Dwain and has worked with him, they will quickly tell you he is an example of the mission statement and deserves recognition as he has worked consistently year after year to ensure the Black Walnut will be here for years to come. It is in that effort he has established the Tree Research and Management division to study the Black Walnut tree. Dwain is also a conscious conservationist and has allowed nothing to be wasted when it comes to the walnut itself. After the walnut is shucked, it is then ground into six different sizes where it can be used as a cleansing and polishing agent for jet engines, electronic circuit boards, and jewelry. It is also used in oil well drilling, water filtration systems, soaps, cosmetic and dental cleansers.

Dwain is more than just a successful businessman. He is a servant to his community, State, and Nation in many different roles. In the community of Stockton, he served on the Board of Alderman for six years and as town mayor for four. He is a life member of the Stockton Lions Club and has served as their president. He is also a member at the United Methodist Church in Stockton where he has been a member of the choir for over 40 years and served as its director for over 20. He has been active in the Boy Scouts at the local, district, and council levels. In the State of Missouri, he has served on the Governor's Task Force on Rural Economic Development, a member for six years on the Missouri State Chamber of Commerce, Executive Board and on the Advisory Board of the University of Missouri School of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife. These are just to name a few. At the national level he was awarded the Meritorious Service Award from the National Walnut Council and is also a lifetime member. The National Association of Marketing Officials awarded him the National Marketing Award. In 1992 he was awarded by President George Bush and this body the Teddy Roosevelt Conservationist Award. And, while it is most important to recognize his achievement in those areas, I would be remiss not to note how he has always been devoted to his family first. I think it shows as his son Brian is ready to take the reins of the business and lead it into the twenty-first century.

Although Dwain will be missed on a daily basis at Hammons Products Company, we all know he will not be far away because his love for the Eastern Black Walnut will keep him close by. So remember, the next time you enjoy the rich, distinctive flavor of the Eastern Black Walnut that you did not have to crack yourself, to be sure to thank Dwain and know he will be thanking you. Thank you, Dwain, for your commitment to your family, the business, and being so willing to give of your time and talents to your community, State, and Nation. Your involvement and self-sacrifice is an example we can all follow and live our lives by.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JARED MARKGRAF; FOR HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

##### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 1, 1999*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Jared

Markgraf, Boy Scout, from San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of his advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

In addition the rank of Eagle Scout is only bestowed once a Boy Scout satisfies duties including, the completion of 21 merit badges, performing a service project of significant value to the community, and additional requirements listed in the Scout Handbook.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Eagle Scout Jared Markgraf will guide and inspire his peers, toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Jared on this respected accomplishment.

#### TRIBUTE TO STEVE BAUER

##### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 1, 1999*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Steve Bauer on his acceptance into the prestigious Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora. Steve is a 15 year-old freshman at Southwestern High School. When the principal of Southwestern, Lynne Chism, was asked about his acceptance she replied, "It's a great honor for Steve and our school." When Steve was asked about his acceptance he said, "It's a great opportunity in my life to study at one of the best math and science schools in the country."

Steve's parents, Pamela and David Bauer of Brighton are proud of their son but they are going to miss him. "We'll be baking a lot of cookies to send to Steve at school," said his grandmother Betty Wright. Bauer wishes to maybe study engineering or medicine, but whatever he chooses to do in life I'm sure he will be successful.

#### HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY AT THE EL TORO AND TUSTIN AIR STATIONS

##### HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 1, 1999*

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the July 2, 1999 closing of United States Marine Corps Air Stations Tustin and El Toro, and to pay respect to the many thousands of dedicated Marines and Orange County civilians who served their country at these two military facilities over the past 50 years.

Commissioned in 1942 as a U.S. Naval Lighter-Than-Air Base, MCAS Tustin was originally home to a fleet of helium-filled airships which conducted anti-submarine patrols off the Southern California coast. The site was decommissioned in 1949 but reactivated in May 1951 with the onset of the Korean War.